

Message Text

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0852

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON EC SUMMIT

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0828 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THORN WAS VERY RESERVED ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EC SUMMIT. DESPITE THE CURRENT FLURRY OF SELF-CONGRATULATIONS ON "POSITIVE" SUMMIT RESULTS, THORN SEES THE EC INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES AS FURTHER WEAKENED. WILSON DID SEEM MORE AWARE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF CONTINUED BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. GISCARD IS A FRAGILE LEADER, AND WHILE SCHMIDT HAS POWER, THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR IS SIMPLY NOT FAVORABLE TO EC INTEGRATION. END SUMMARY

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1. ON DECEMBER 17 I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER THORN

TO RECEIVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE PARIS EC SUMMIT. THORN BEGAN BY STATING THAT IT WOULD BE "UNREASONABLE NOT TO REMAIN SKEPTICAL AND DISAPPOINTED". BEFORE THE SUMMIT, HE HAD PREDICTED (REFTEL) WHAT PROBLEMS WOULD REMAIN AND WHAT MINOR ACCOMPLISHMENT WOULD BE ACHIEVED. HIS MAJOR CONCERN WAS THAT COMMUNITY PROCEDURES WERE FURTHER DILUTED BY THE SUMMIT RESULTS. EC COUNCIL MEETINGS WOULD HENCEFORTH BE "TOTALLY USELESS" WITH TECHNICAL MATTERS REFERRED "DOWNWARD" BY THE MINISTERS TO THE COREPER AND DECISIONS OF EVEN MARGINAL IMPORTANCE REFERRED "UPWARD" TO THE NEW EUROPEAN COUNCIL. DISCOUNTING GISCARD'S CLAIM THAT THE SUMMIT HAD REINFORCED COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, THORN MAINTAINED THAT THE FRENCH HAD DEVISED AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL, NOT A COMMUNITY, SCENARIO FOR EC RELATIONS. THORN DESCRIBED THE SUMMIT'S AGREEMENT ON THE REGIONAL FUND AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ACCORD, SINCE EC COMMISSIONER THOMPSON WAS ABSENT FROM THE KEY DISCUSSIONS LEADING UP TO THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT. FOR THE PRESENT, THORN ADDED, "THERE IS NO EC". HE DESCRIBED THE EC COMMISSION AS "DOCILE", AND THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AS "MUTED". NO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC DECISIONS ARE TO BE MADE AT ALL IN THE EC FRAMEWORK.

A. UK. COMMENTING THAT WILSON "HAS NEVER BEEN OVERCONCERNED WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF VERACITY", THORN SAID THAT THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER DOES REALIZE THAT THE UK WOULD PAY A VERY HIGH PRICE IN LEAVING THE EC. SENSING THE NEED TO BUILD A REPUTATION AS A SUCCESSFUL "RENEGOTIATOR", WILSON WILL BOAST ABOUT WHAT HE OBTAINED FROM THE EC FOR THE UK BUT, IN REALITY, SETTLE FOR ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD OF HIS ORIGINAL DEMANDS.

B. GISCARD AND SCHMIDT. THORN SAID THAT GISCARD REMINDED HIM OF THE MAN WHO KNOWS NOT WHERE HE IS GOING, BUT GOES NEVERTHELESS WITH GREAT DETERMINATION. IN RESTRICTED SUMMIT SESSIONS, GISCARD SEEMED MORE PRO EC THAN THE GERMANS, DANES AND BRITISH. BUT GISCARD'S FREEDOM OF MANEUVER IS LIMITED BY THE GAULLIST DOMESTIC POLITICAL FACTOR AND THE UNREGENERATED BUREAUCRACY IN THE QUAI D'ORSAY. THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR IS "MUCH MORE OF A LEADER", BUT THORN ASKED US TO REMEMBER THAT SCHMIDT
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WAS IN THE SMALL SPD MINORITY OPPOSED TO THE TREATY OF ROME IN 1956. THORN ALSO REMEMBERS SCHMIDT FIERCELY OPPOSING THE EEC IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. AS A MINISTER, AND NOW AS CHANCELLOR, SCHMIDT HAS SHOWN LITTLE RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY PROCEDURES, AND HIS AVERSION TO EC TECHNOCRATS BORDERS ON THE OBSESSIONAL. ACCORDING TO THORN, SCHMIDT'S FOREIGN POLICIES ARE MOTIVATED BY:

1) PRIDE IN THE FRG'S ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND GROWING POLITICAL

ROLE IN EUROPE;

2) THE TOP PRIORITY OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US;

3) THE NEED TO HELP GISCARD APPEAR TO THE FRENCH ELECTORATE
AS THE GUARANTOR OF CONTINUED FRENCH ASCENDANCY IN THE EC;

4) THE CONVICTION THAT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE
EC IS NOW POSSIBLE ONLY AMONG THE FIVE "SOLVENT" MEMBERS OF
THE GERMAN-LED SNAKE;

5) A DESIRE TO HELP HIS FOLLOW SOCIALIST PRIME MINISTER,
HAROLD WILSON, KEEP THE UK IN THE EC;FARKAS

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